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STAMP, J. C. *British Incomes and Property*. Pp. xv, 537. Price, 12s. 6d. London: P. S. King and Son, 1916.

This income study is the latest in the series of monographs by writers connected with the London School of Economics and Political Science. It is described in the author's own words as "the application of official statistics to economic problems." The author has taken great pains to compile the official figures dealing with property income, and to interpret them in terms of the problems in which he is particularly interested. He deals successively with Real Property, Income from the Use of Land, The Income Tax, Income from Securities, Business Profits, and Salaries of Officials. He then makes some application of the official statistics in his discussions of land values and the taxable capacity of Ireland, the national capital, the national income, the distribution of income among persons, and among income classes. Particular interest must attach to this work in the United States, first because of the thorough manner in which the study is presented, but chiefly because of the immediate application that this study must have to the problem of income and land taxes in the United States. The student who is acquainted with the sources of information available in the American government reports on the collection of the income tax is astonished at the wealth of material presented in the British reports. Furthermore, the author shows quite conclusively that tax dodging under the British Act has been largely eliminated. Although there have been a number of private endeavors to discover the income of the people of the United States, the government has made no serious effort to meet this situation, nor has it attempted to secure the maximum results in publicity by issuing a full statement of income tax figures. This study of the excellent British data furnishes an example that America ultimately must follow.

S. N.

GEOGRAPHY

HUNTINGTON, ELLSWORTH. *Civilization and Climate*. Pp. xii, 333. Price, \$2.50 New Haven: Yale University Press, 1915.

How would you make a map of civilization and the degrees thereof? One man of whom I asked this question said he would base it upon the industrial productivity of the people. But the more I pursued him for details the less he thought of his method, and he finally abandoned it entirely. I have repeated this experience several times and always with the same result. There are too many modifying circumstances.

We are continually talking about civilization and never defining it. Definitions or measures of civilization that run into quantitative terms nearly always test out badly, yet, despite this fundamental difficulty, Dr. Huntington has made a map of civilization; but this was not his only recourse. In the absence of a definite basis of measurement he fell back on a consensus of opinion, expert opinion. This he obtained before the outbreak of the Great War from persons of wide knowledge living in nearly all civilized countries. These selected persons gave their answers to a series of questions, and Dr. Huntington merely tabulated and mapped the results, giving a map of civilization of great interest. Then he applied certain quantitative tests to this opinion map.

If we cannot define civilization we can perhaps agree that it is a function of energy—human energy, aided, of course, by a certain amount of economic resource. The vital thing then becomes human energy; what causes it? Dr. Huntington's great contribution is that he gives us an answer to this question based upon evidence, not opinion. He measures human energy by human output—the results of labor. After handling an appalling array of figures he finds a close relation between work and weather conditions. Girls and men in New England and in Florida factories work their best when the out-of-doors temperature is about 57° F. They hold that pace with little change til 70° is reached and then, with increasing heat, output declines. Most of us would have expected something like this but, a few, I think, had previously come to the opposite conclusion, namely that very cold weather produces a similar result. This means that central Siberia is to languish under a cold curse just as central Africa is to languish under a hot one.

Brain work, as measured in the mercilessly accurate marks of Annapolis and West Point, shows the same curve with the maximum about 38° F. Even low forms of animal life and the wheat plant show a similar curve.

The above mentioned collections of human data showed that change of temperature was a stimulus to greater action. Within limits, a change of temperature either way makes us more active, but the change must not be too great for after about 8° or 10°, the change becomes enough to depress. This means that, in addition to the changeable seasons, which had been generally regarded as the basal factor in higher human dynamics, we have the cyclonic storm—this cyclonic storm that dominates our weather in the Eastern United States and Northwestern Europe and of which we so chronically and so bitterly complain. This much berated thing is, according to Huntington, the greatest dynamo of civilization upon this earth. Superimpose these changes upon an average temperature, like that of England, Holland, Northern France and Germany and we have a perfectly simple explanation of the unexampled displays of human energy there manifested. It is not by mere accident that little Britain has been so big in history.

In his daring attempt to map the unmappable and compare things difficult of comparison, Dr. Huntington often lays himself open to the flaw picking critic, but perhaps the flaws would balance. We are more inclined to this view when we note the striking resemblance of his map of human energy as made by applying the work data to the facts of climate, with the civilization map as made up from expert opinion.

If we follow his conclusions to their logical limit, it means that, pending some change of climate, the dominance of the earth is to remain where it now is, in Northwest Europe and in North Central North America with a possible rival in China and Japan.

This is a book that should receive the attention of all economists, historians and sociologists and particularly those of missionary spirit. We have cast too many ethnic jewels into places where the prospect was less than that of the pearls before swine, for swine do not hurt pearls.

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